

in the world by smoking. It has prevented more *liaisons* than the dread of a duel or Doctors' Commons.' Then I replied, 'You have proved that it is a very moral habit.' W., you know, although no Adonis, is a terrible *rou-6*.

May 15.

I very much fear that the Whigs are again in, and on their own terms. Such, indeed, is the report, but that is only a shot founded on last night's debate; but it is, I apprehend, a conjecture that will turn out to be a prophecy. I dined at [Lord] Eliot's * on Saturday, and met Colonel and Captain A'Court, brothers of Lord Heytesbury, and Lord Strangford. We had some delightful conversation and remained till a late hour. Strangford is an aristocratic Tom, Moore; his flow is incessant and brilliant. The A'Courts very unaffected, hearty fellows.

Yesterday I dined at Eliot's — a male party consisting of eight. I sat between Peel and Herries,² but cannot tell you the names of the other guests, although they were all members of one or other House; but I detected among them Captain York, whom I had met in the Levant. Peel was most gracious. He is a very great man, indeed, — and they all seem, afraid of him. By-the-bye, I observed that he attacked his turbot most entirely with his knife, so Walker's story is true. I can easily conceive that he could be very disagreeable, but yesterday he was in a most condescending mood and unbent with becoming haughtiness. I reminded him, by my dignified familiarity both that he was ex-Minister and I a present Radical. Herries — old, grey-headed, financial Herries — turned out quite a literary man — so false are one's impressions. The dinner was sumptuous, and we broke up late.^a

The 'John Bull book,' of which he wrote in February and which was to 'destroy the foreign policy of the Grey faction,' was published by Murray in April under the title of "England and France; or a Cure for the Ministerial Gallomania." It appeared anonymously and with an ironical dedication to the Prime Minister as 'the most eminent Gallomaniac of the day.' With regard to the authorship of this work, Disraeli wrote to Murray, *I should never be ashamed of being considered the

¹ Afterwards 3rd Earl of St. Germans.

² Chancellor of the Exchequer in Goderich's

Ministry.
⁸ *Letters*, pp. 70-75.